

What are the Voter Registration requirements?

- Must be a US citizen;
- Must be at least 18 years of age by Election Day
- Must have been a resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day.

When may I register to vote?

Registration is open year round except: During the 27-day period just prior to an election and during the 2-day period after each election (1 day after in Chicago)

What is “Grace Period” Registration?

“Grace Period” Registration is an extension of the period of time for a voter to register to vote, or to update their registration information. This “Grace Period” Registration extends registration from the normal close of registration up through the 14th day before the election. This voter may now also cast a “Grace Period” ballot by contacting the election authority’s office.

What forms of identification may be needed when I register to vote?

Two forms of identification with at least one showing your current residence address is needed when you register in-person. If you register by mail, one form of identification is needed that shows your current residence and you must vote in person the first time you vote. The mail-in form contains additional requirements for submitting identification.

Do I ever have to re-register?

No, not unless you have moved to a different election jurisdiction, or have changed your name. If you move within the same election jurisdiction, you must transfer your registration.

Will I automatically be registered to vote when I renew my driver’s license?

No. But you will be given the opportunity to register to vote. If you are already registered to vote, there is no need to register again unless you change your name or move.

Can I register to vote by mailing an application to my election office?

Yes. Under federal law, citizens may apply to register to vote by mailing in an application. The applications are available at some public and private facilities where you live. Also, applications can be downloaded from the Illinois State Board of Elections website at: www.elections.il.gov.

When you apply for registration using the mail-in form, it must be postmarked prior to the close of registration. Contact your local election office to learn more about registering by mail.

If I mail in an application to vote, can I vote by absentee ballot?

Unless disabled or in the military, persons who register by mail must vote in-person or by in-person absentee voting or by early voting the first time they vote.

Can I register at a public assistance office?

Yes. Any person who requests public assistance will be given an opportunity to register to vote.

When can I consider myself officially registered to vote?

As soon as you receive a voter ID card in the mail, you can consider yourself registered. If you do not receive an ID card within 3 weeks after you registered, call your election office.

What if I change my name after being registered?

If you changed your name more than 27 days before the election and did not re-register, you cannot vote - unless you live in the same precinct. If you live in the same precinct, you may sign an affidavit at the polling place attesting that you are the same person, in which case you will be given the full ballot.

IMPORTANT

Knowingly giving, lending, or promising to give or lend any money or other valuable consideration to any other person to influence that person to vote or to register to vote or to influence that person to vote for or against any candidate or public question is a **Class 4 felony. Any unusual activity or irregularity associated with any voting procedure should be reported immediately to proper authorities.**

NOTE: Under certain circumstances, a person whose right to vote is challenged may be allowed to vote a provisional ballot on Election Day.

What if I move, can I still vote?

It depends on when you move. If you moved within 27 days of the election in the same precinct you can vote a full ballot by signing an affidavit.

If you moved more than 30 days before the election within the same election jurisdiction, but outside your precinct, and did not transfer your registration, you can vote on a ballot for federal offices only after completing an address correction form.

If you moved within 30 days before the election outside of your precinct, but you still live in the State, and did not transfer your registration, you can vote a full ballot in your old polling place after completing an affidavit.

If you moved more than 30 days before the election out of your county or municipality under a board of election commissioners and did not transfer your registration, you cannot vote.



CHANGES DUE TO PA 93-1082

Public Act 93-1082 (effective July 1, 2005) created "Grace Period" registration and voting in Illinois. This extends the period of time that a voter may register to vote from the close of registration up through the 14th day before the election. This voter will NOT be allowed to vote at the polls on Election Day.

CHANGES DUE TO PA 94-0492

Public Act 94-0492 (effective Jan. 1, 2006) requires public institutions of higher learning to post voter registration application forms on their websites.

REGISTERING TO VOTE IN ILLINOIS



For more information on election laws and procedures, write or call the State Board of Elections:

In Springfield at 217/782-4141
TDD 217/782-1518

In Chicago at 312/814-6440
TDD 312/814-6431

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Your vote does
count, but before
you can vote you **MUST** be
registered. This brochure answers
some basic questions about
registering to vote and voting.